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PROPHYLAXIS TERMED BASIC ANTICANCER MEASURE

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An analysis of statistical material collected by oncological institutions shows that for the majority of hospitalized cancer patients recovery is almost impossible due to advanced conditions. As a result, Soviet oncologists have urged the organized study of precancerous diseases as well as their pathogenesis.

The first mass examination for cancer was conducted in Leningrad in 1946. At that time 27,000 cases were examined; 2.7 percent had precancerous diseases while 12 cases had positive cancer. Due to fine results of this examination, the All-Union Oncological Conference acted on a resolution to make mass examinations every year.

Results of medical practice during World War II proved the full value of early diagnosis and correct therapy of various war wounds. Early diagnosis and correct therapy is necessary in the treatment of malignant tumors. Faulty diagnosis is common among younger doctors as well as among the "Greats" in the field of oncology. Scientists at the Institute of Oncology, Academy of Medical Sciences, published the fact that 35 - 40 percent of cases erroneously diagnosed were hospitalized later for cancer which developed pathogenetically, and in about 45 percent of the cases cancer developed while the patient was confined in the polyclinic.

The mass examination of Leningrad citizens proved that qualified cancer specialists were able to determine 2½ times as many precancerous diseases as the inexperienced specialists, proving the need for qualified oncologists.

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Prophylaxis of precancerous cases is very important as was shown by a test made in Leningrad during 1947. The Director of the Oncological Institute, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, on his own initiative instituted examinations in maternity homes and creches. Some 6,000 patients were examined and it was found that vaginal operations had to be performed on 660 mothers to prevent dissemination of cancerous tissues.

In large USSR cities regional oncological stations supplement the oncological dispensaries, but in the interest of efficiency these regional stations should be united with the dispensaries. Such a program was started in Leningrad during the early part of 1949 and the results indicate that these measures should be expanded throughout the USSR.

The Red Cross is also very active in the anticancer battle being waged in the city of Leningrad.

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